

Serial No.: 10/631,184
Response to Office Action Mailed January 3, 2005

Filed: July 31, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 12-18, 20-23, 28-30, 32-35, 37-39, 42 and 44-65 are pending in the present application. Claims 6, 10, 11, 19, 24-27, 31, 36, 40, 41 and 43 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 13, 34 and 47-49 have been amended, and Claims 53-65 have been added to claim additional subject matter. New independent Claim 54 is readable on Species V – Figures 10-11. No new matter has been added.

Allowed and Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Allowance of Claims 32-33 and 44-45. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowability of Claims 13-18, 20-23, 28-30, 43 and 46-52. Although Claims 47-52 were indicated as allowed in the Office Action, Claims 47-52 are dependent claims. Accordingly, Applicant assumes that Claims 47-52 are allowable and were intended to be indicated as objected to in the office action. Applicant respectfully requests confirmation of Applicant's assumption in subsequent correspondence.

Claims 13-18, 20-23 and 28-30

Claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the limitations of Claim 1. In addition, Claim 13 has been amended to be broader than original Claim 13. In the office action, Claim 13 was indicated as allowable if amended to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Claim 13 is now allowable. Claims 14-18 and 20-23 depend from independent Claim 13 and are therefore also allowable for the same reason.

The 35 USC §102(b) Rejections

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 12, 34-35, 38-39 and 42 stand rejected pursuant to 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by either of US Patent No. 4,440,443 to Nordskog (hereafter "Nordskog") or US Patent No. 3,512,605 to McCorkle (hereinafter "McCorkle").

Claims 1-5, 8-9 and 12

Claim 1 has been amended to describe that the sound barrier is coupled to the surface of the seatback and positioned between the first speaker and the second speaker to form a partition that provides stereo separation of sound waves to be emanated from the first and second speakers. In addition, Claim 1 has been amended to describe that the sound barrier has an

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outermost arcuated surface extending from the surface of the seatback by a distance. Neither Nordskog nor McCorkle describe the sound barrier as claimed. In addition, Claims 2-5, 7-9 and 12 depend from independent Claim 1 and are therefore patentable over the prior art for the same reason. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 USC §102(b) rejection of Claims 1-5, 7-9 and 12.

Claims 34-35, 38-39 and 42

Claim 34 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 43 and Claim 43 has been cancelled. In the office action, Claim 43 was indicated as allowable if amended to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Claim 34 is now allowable. Claims 35, 38-39 and 42 depend from independent Claim 34 and are therefore also allowable for the same reason. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 USC §102(b) rejection of Claims 34-35, 38-39 and 42.

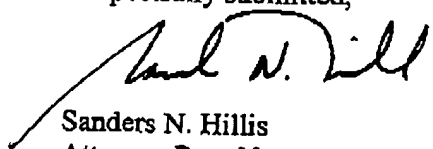
New Claims 53-65

None of the cited prior art of record cites the limitations claimed in new Claims 53-65.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the pending Claims of the present application are allowable in their present form, and that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner so find and issue a Notice of Allowance in due course. Should the Examiner deem a telephone conference to be beneficial in expediting examination and/or allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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